



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

July 22, 2004

V CORPS SOLDIER-COOKS NAMED BEST IN U.S. ARMY EUROPE, PREPARE TO TAKE ON ARMY-LEVEL COMPETITION

By Claudette Roulo

Staff journalist for the 98th Area Support Group newspaper, "The Point"

ANSBACH, Germany — Cooks from Battery C of V Corps' 6th Battalion, 52nd Air Defense Artillery, 69th ADA Brigade, will represent U.S. Army Europe in the field kitchen category of the 37th annual Phillip A. Connelly food service competition.

After winning at the 98th Area Support Group and USAREUR level, and will compete at the Department of the Army level in October and November.



CLAUDETTE ROULO

Spc. Julio Garcia of V Corps' Battery C, 6th Battalion, 52nd Air Defense Artillery, 69th ADA Brigade, prepares beans in a mobile kitchen trailer during judging of the U.S. Army Europe-level competition for the Phillip A. Connelly food service awards.

For the USAREUR competition the cooks set up a fully operational field kitchen at the Urlas training area near Shipton Kaserne here and served two meals to the battery under the watchful eyes of two USAREUR judges.

A gravel path weaves through the half-acre site, which will be used again by 6/52nd during their upcoming training cycle. The entire site is screened from view by trees and camouflage netting.

"We built the site over the course of two months. There were anywhere from four to 10 Soldiers working out here every day," said Staff Sgt. Grant Brenneka.

"The field manual gives the basic set-up for field kitchen operations, but this unit went beyond the basics. This is really well done," said Installation Management Agency-Europe garrison food program manager Michael Damico, who served as one of the USAREUR judges.

"We all gave our input, but the mastermind was Staff Sgt. Brenneka. Without our Soldiers, we wouldn't have been able to do it. They're the ones who make us look good," said Sgt. Christopher Rush, a Battery C cook.

"Staff Sgt. Brenneka is experienced and knowledgeable. We're going to use this site to spread the standard throughout the rest of the battalion," added Lt. Col. Timothy Sughrue, the battalion commander.

"This is one of the best teams I've ever worked with. The quality of the leaders and Soldiers is the best I've ever experienced," Brenneka said.

The Connelly award program was established in 1968 to recognize excellence in Army food service.

"[The competition is] a great training opportunity for food service personnel. It's also a great opportunity to improve the quality of food service to Soldiers," said Master Sgt. Velinda White, senior USAREUR tactical food service NCO, who served as the other USAREUR judge.

"The real winners are the Soldiers who eat in the dining facilities."

